



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Friday 10 June 2022 – Morning

A Level History A

Y112/01 Britain 1900–1951

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes



You must have:

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- Answer Question 1 in Section A. Answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3 in Section B.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **50**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].
- Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- This document has **4** pages.

ADVICE

- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

SECTION A**England and a New Century c.1900–1918**

Study the four sources and then answer Question 1.

- 1 Using these four sources in their historical context, assess how far they support the view that low wages were the main cause of the industrial unrest in the years from 1910 to 1914. [30]

Source A: A government ministry presents its analysis of the causes of industrial disputes.

The majority of disputes that occur arise principally about inadequate wages. In the last year, this was the case in 576 of the total of 903 disputes. The assertion and defence of trade union principles, such as demands by workpeople for recognition of their trade union or refusals to work with non-unionists, have been frequent causes of trade disputes for many years past, but usually such disputes have been small in magnitude. In 1911, however, these causes were mainly responsible for two of the largest disputes of the year – the general railway strike and the lock-out in the cotton weaving industry of North and North-East Lancashire.

The Board of Trade, Report on Strikes and Lockouts, 1911**Source B: A Labour MP contributes to the debate in the House of Commons on a motion for an investigation into the causes of industrial unrest.**

Ten years ago, one third of the population were living either in poverty or on the poverty line. Every evil that existed then has been made worse since. In the first ten years of this century the cost of living, according to the Board of Trade figures, has increased by 12.5% but wages by only 1%. The workers have been crying out for a fuller share of life but while there has been this increase in the demand, there has been a lessening of the power to satisfy the demand. Various reforms, such as pensions and insurance, have tinkered with effects without touching causes.

Keir Hardie, speech, 8 May 1912**Source C: A prominent socialist writer and observer of society expresses his views on the nature of the problem underlying the unrest of the time.**

The worker is beginning to strike for unprecedented ends – against the system, against the fundamental conditions of labour, to strike for no defined ends at all. The temper of labour has changed. The young workman has put the whole social system on trial. He criticises the good intentions of the whole system of governing and influential people. These are the new conditions, and these middle-aged and elderly gentlemen who are dealing with the crisis in the belief that their vast experience of earlier Labour questions will help them do so are bringing the gunpowder of misunderstanding to the revolutionary fort.

H. G. Wells, What the Worker Wants, 1912

Source D: The editor of a publication about labour relations summarises the views of several writers included in the book.

At the same time that syndicalism* came to be discussed, a revival of trade union activity took place, and on such a scale that it seemed to the present writers that, at last, the trade unions were now finally determined to form a permanent element in society. In short, every speculation concerning the future of industry was henceforward bound to take into account the trade unions as well as the state. In our view, every strike should specifically aim to achieve some form of partnership in industry by the unions and not by the individual members.

*syndicalism – a movement for transferring the ownership and control of the means of production and distribution to workers' unions

A. R. Orage, National Guilds, 1914

SECTION B**Britain c.1918–1951**Answer **ONE** question.

- 2*** 'Poor leadership within the trade union movement was the main reason for the failure of the General Strike of 1926.' How far do you agree? **[20]**
- 3*** How successful were the domestic policies of Labour governments in the period from 1945 to 1951? **[20]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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